



GAMBIA: POPULATION MOVEMENT

DREF Bulletin
No. MDRGM001
15 September 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 45,000 (USD 36,640 or EUR 28,560) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will be completed by 14 November, 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 14 February, 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

Fighting in the Casamance region of Senegal over the past couple of weeks has led to population movement as thousands of people flee into Gambia, seeking for refuge. To date, more than 5,600 people have crossed over Gambia and are received and hosted by the local populations of Gifanga and Kusumai villages, who are now outnumbered by their guests.

While some of the refugees made their way to Gambia's capital, Banjul, the households who have hosted many of the new arrivals could no longer cope with more people; therefore, the local authorities had to open one school and some training centres to house the newcomers. With the ongoing rainy season, there are some sanitation concerns besides that of food, as the locals do not have enough sources to share with their guests. Although some of the refugees arrived with some food, it was not enough to sustain them for a long time.

As Gambia will conduct general elections from 22 September 2006, its borders will be closed; hence no movement across will be possible for a while. Naturally, there will be no possibility for the displaced people to return to their plantations across the border. As a result, efforts are being made to coordinate the relief assistance to the affected communities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) deployed a team to support the local branch overwhelmed with a large number of people and to carry out a rapid assessment on the humanitarian needs. Red Cross first aid teams have been providing necessary assistance to those who require attention. Some GRCS volunteers are helping the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the registration of refugees and, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), others are working on tracing and assessment.

Given the GRCS involvement in the registration process in the past and its experience on the Casamance issue, a number of partners have presented an interest of working together with its volunteers in distributing relief items. With assistance from the Federation's regional delegation in Dakar, GRCS has developed a plan of action to assist the population in need.

Plan of Action

Goal: The Gambia Red Cross Society has contributed to the well-being of the population displaced from Casamance and the host families for two months.

Objective 1: To equip Red Cross volunteers with registration skills and techniques.

Objective 2: To ensure that GRCS volunteers are equipped to conduct efficient distributions and a swift response to alleviate and/or mitigate the suffering of the refugees and their host communities.

Objective 3: To ensure effective and efficient distribution of food and non-food items (NFIs) to the displaced people and their host communities.

Objective 4: To ensure maintenance of basic health conditions among displaced people and their host communities.

Expected results:

- 50 volunteers are trained and familiarized with Sphere norms and standards on relief operations;
- The most vulnerable population – children aged under five years, single mothers, the elderly and pregnant women – are identified and registered as beneficiaries;
- The Red Cross has delivered an efficient relief distribution to the affected population;
- No disease outbreak is recorded among the refugees and the host population;
- The refugees and the host population share information on awareness and prevention of HIV;
- Persons separated from their families have re-united;
- Access to water and sanitation, hygiene, as well as basic health care targeting prevention of diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections and malaria has been provided.

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Activities

- Organizing a relief training on Sphere standards for 50 volunteers;
- Registering beneficiaries;
- Distributing NFIs such as insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and blankets to some 2,500 families;
- Conducting sensitization activities on the prevention of disease outbreaks;
- Conducting awareness activities on the spread and prevention of HIV;
- Distributing food from other partners;
- Re-establishing family links;
- Providing psychological support to the displaced populations and their host communities.

Strategies

- Recruitment of community volunteers from the displaced and host communities to team up with the Red Cross volunteers in the training as well as relief distribution operations;
- Assessment of needs and correlating the results of previous assessments with the new findings;
- House-to-house distribution of food items and NFIs to meet the needs of the most affected population while conducting health sensitization activities.

Coordination

Gambia's National Emergency Body has been holding a series of meetings in which the Gambia Red Cross Society has been sitting in as a member. The UNHCR is taking the lead in the registration process to determine the mandate of different agencies.

Budget outline

Type	Value (CHF)
Beneficiaries needs	
Clothing and textile	21,000
Teaching materials	2,640
Sub-total 1	23,640
Operational needs	
National staff	8,160
Travel	6,876
Other general expenses	3,112
Communication	288
Sub-total 2	18,436
Total (without PSR)	42,076
Programme support (6.5%)	2,925
Grand total	45,001

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